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Good Morning! It's Thursday, Sept. 1, 1977

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Royals lead by 2½;
Cardinals lose 2-1

—Story on page 1A

Gasification report 'error-riddled'

By John Schneller
Missourian staff writer

A consultants' report on the feasibility of a proposed coal gasification plant is riddled with statistical errors and misleading statements that make the proposed plant seem more attractive, members of a Columbia task force reviewing the report said Wednesday night.

The report, which concludes that the proposed plant would be economically feasible, drew only criticism from the task force, with members pointing to what they said are a host of discrepancies and deficiencies in many sections

of the two-volume study.

Bill Frech, Boone County Court presiding judge, said the report contains "errors that blow your mind."

"It seems to me we've started without getting to the starting place," Frech said, referring to the unfinished business of testing a local type of coal in a model plant.

Member Marc De Chazal, University professor of chemical engineering, pointed to "apparently biased" calculations used to figure the cost of electricity produced by the plant. Conflicting methods of projecting construction costs and profits for the plant weight the

report's conclusions in favor of gasification, he said, raising "some very real doubts about the whole process of calculating accountability."

The consulting firm used outdated coal reserve statistics to show there is plenty of coal in the area to fuel the plant, instead of "drastically lower" 1976 figures which were used elsewhere in the report to recommend plant sites, said Richard Victor, a University history professor and gasification opponent. "Apparently a lot of slipshod work was done and some blatant mistakes made," he concluded.

De Chazal, who has picked through the report with a fine-toothed comb, reported a 13 per cent

error in the amount of sulfur and ash leaving the plant. If the error is found to be consistent throughout, it would show up as a false price for the electricity produced, he said.

Frech questioned the report's conclusions of an adequate water supply to run the plant, noting that the average flow listed for two area creeks is triple the flow in the aquifer that feeds those creeks.

Members generally agreed the report failed to address a list of specific questions posed by the task force earlier this year, particularly taking the consultants to task for what the critics called a shallow preliminary assessment of the plant's

probable environmental and social impact on the community.

Consulting engineers from the Kansas City, Kan., firm of Lutz, Dally & Brain will be invited to a public hearing later this month to explain the report's apparent deficiencies, the task force agreed. But Holme Hickman, the task force chairman, said he doubts the firm will answer many of the new questions raised by the report. Most of the questions raised by the task force Wednesday night will be addressed in a Phase III study, Hickman said.

The task force tentatively set a two-day public (See HEARINGS, page 12A)

Insight

Law change lowers age for smoking

By Sue A. Mariner
State capital bureau

JEFFERSON CITY — Jimmy is 9 years old. In a typical day he sees advertisements in magazines and newspapers showing the pleasure of smoking cigarettes. In the evening, his parents relax with after-dinner cigarettes.

Jimmy can't wait to begin smoking cigarettes, too, "just like the grown-ups." And since he lives in Missouri, he will get that opportunity within the next 17 months.

Children 10 and older will be able to purchase and smoke cigarettes legally in Missouri beginning Jan. 1, 1979.

The state statutes prohibiting the sale of cigarettes to minors and smoking in public places by minors were deleted from the revised criminal code passed during the last legislative session.

Under the previous statutes, it was a misdemeanor for persons to sell or give cigarettes and cigarette papers to children younger than 18. It also was a misdemeanor for children younger than 18 to "smoke or use cigarettes on any public road, street, alley, park . . . in any public place of business or amusement, or upon any railroad train or street car."

A provision remains in the Missouri statutes, however, which permits cities and towns to enact ordinances prohibiting the sale of cigarettes to minors.

The American Lung Association estimates that about 4,000 high school students across the country start smoking every day, said Dr. Ray G. Cowley, superintendent of the Missouri State Chest Hospital in Mt. Vernon.

Cowley said the earlier a person begins smoking cigarettes, the more likely that person will have serious lung problems at a relatively young age.

"The majority of those persons who begin smoking before age 10 start having serious lung damage in their 30s and 40s," he said.

"It's not only a case of there being more damage over a greater length of time, but it appears that the younger a person is when he starts smoking, the more susceptible to lung damage are his lungs," Cowley said.

Smokers are especially likely to contract lung cancer, emphysema and chronic bronchitis, which are "directly related to smoking," he said.

Many patients at the state hospital began smoking at an early age, Cowley said. "We've got a patient now who

(See HIGH, page 12A)



A woman watches over her two sons as they sleep in an evacuation center in Larose, La., after fleeing high waters caused by Hurricane Anita.

Hurricane not enough to shake Texas man

GALVESTON, Tex. (UPI) — F.M. "Pop" Dunson of Port Isabel, Tex., has survived the bad hurricanes of "ought nine," 1931, 1933 and 1957. He is not afraid of them.

"That one in 1957, I rode it out in my house," he said. "The hurricane caused me \$1.45 damage."

Not million or billion. One dollar and 45 cents damage in a storm which killed 430 persons.

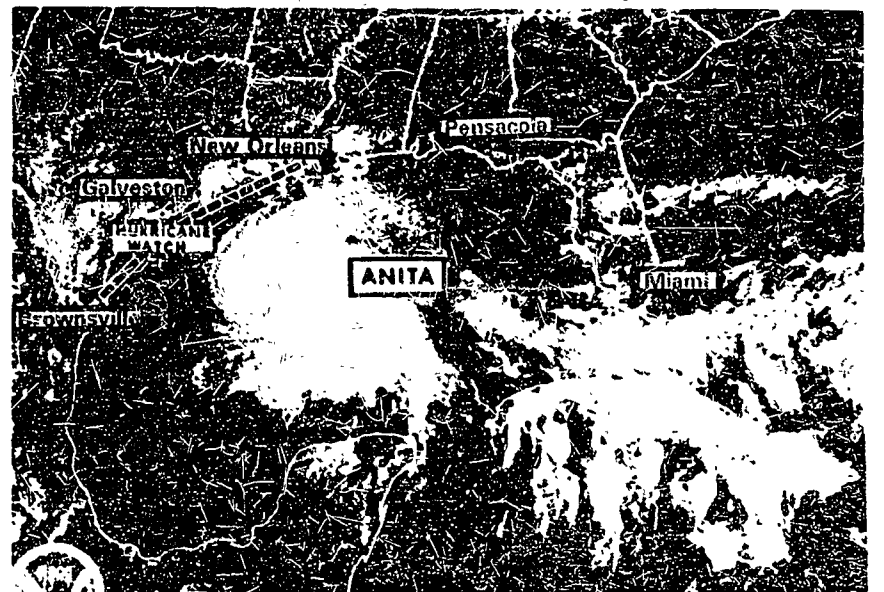
"It broke a window," he said. A pause. "I know how to build houses."

Dunson is one of thousands of people living along the 350 miles (560 kilometers) of Texas and Louisiana coastline preparing for the arrival of Hurricane Anita. Most, like Dunson, are waiting for more information about the track of the season's first tropical storm.

Moving westward toward the Texas Gulf Coast, Hurricane Anita built up 55-mile-per-hour (152-kilometer-per-hour) winds Wednesday, causing worry among residents along the Texas and Louisiana coasts.

Atmospheric pressures driving inland ahead of the storm already had flooded low-lying areas of the Texas coast.

Dunson, 91-year-old operator of a surfing shop at Port Isabel near the Texas-Mexico border, said the storm could build to a furious level because it



was moving over the Gulf so slowly.

"It's got so much time to gain in intensity and that's not good," he said. "It could be very rough. The winds could be up to 120 or maybe above that by the time it reaches shore."

The National Weather Service recommended evacuation of hundreds of persons living on land which lies up to five feet (1.5 meters) above sea level. But little movement inland

actually had begun in Texas, the likely landfall for the storm.

"A few people have left, but it's a voluntary thing — almost everybody is just like us — sitting here waiting for Anita," said Galveston County Sheriff's Deputy Eric Nevelow.

At 8 p.m. CDT Anita was located about 300 miles (480 kilometers) east-southeast of Corpus Christi, Tex., near latitude 26.1 north and longitude 92.9 west.

City to shuttle aside shuttle bus proposal

By Daniel Ray, Betty Connor
and Lynn O'Shaughnessy
Missourian staff writers

Point-to-point bus service between apartment areas and the University may be an idea whose time has not yet come to Columbia.

"I don't see how we can go any further with it," Mayor Les Proctor said at Wednesday's City Council budget work session. "I think it's a dead issue."

Only First Ward Councilman Pat Barnes, whose idea it was in the first place, disagreed.

Proctor based his comments on a feasibility study which concluded that the only areas with enough students to make a point-to-point system practical already are being served by private shuttle systems.

These are the White Gate area in northeast Columbia and the West Broadway-Stadium Boulevard area.

The 21-page study was prepared by the public works and planning departments and David Guell, an assistant professor of civil engineering at the University.

Barnes said the study was not sufficiently "broad-based." Earlier this week he said the study should have considered the heavy concentration of University employees in the Second Ward. "I know it works well in other cities," he said Wednesday.

Barnes is vice president of Executive Affiliates, Inc., a real estate firm that operates Gatehouse, Holiday House and Tiger Village apartments in the West Broadway area. Shuttle buses between these apartments and the University

transport about 70 per cent of the riders using private point-to-point bus systems in the city. White Gate riders account for the remainder.

Public Works Director Ray Sick had been waiting for the council's green light to continue investigating the shuttle system, and did not receive it at the budget workshop.

Missouri Student Association President David LaGessee said later Wednesday, however, that the association would ask the council to proceed with the study with an eye toward areas not mentioned in the report.

He said the present recommendation consists of "relieving Barnes' company

(See COUNCIL, page 12A)

In town today

Noon "Diapers, Dissertation, Disaster" lunchbag seminar at the University Women's Center, 1 Gentry Hall.

7:30 p.m. PTA Council meets at Hickman High School cafeteria.

7:59 p.m. Stephen's College Playhouse Theater presents "Broadway."

8 p.m. Singer Tom Jones and "Blossoms," Hearnes Center.

Exhibits
See Sunday's Vibrations magazine for continuing exhibit schedule.

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Defender leaves clean office, satisfied with the job he did

By Christine M. Mullins
Missourian staff writer

Bill Mays sat back in the Boone County public defender's office and surveyed a desktop, swept clean for the first time in nearly five years.

"I think the last time it was clear was when we moved in," he mused. "My secretary attempted to clear it off from time to time, and sometimes she even got it down to two or three neat little piles."

That piled-up desktop was the symbol of Mays' tenure of almost five years in the office, one year as an assistant and, since 1974, as public defender. It is a position he has resigned in favor of private practice. An assistant, Joe Moseley, has been appointed acting public defender.

Wednesday was Mays' last day as public defender. He spent it clearing out his office, and discovering that almost-ex-bosses get little respect.

"Who's got my wastebasket? Somebody's taken my wastebasket already," he said, walking into his office.

"(Assistant defender David) Deak has it, and it's full," came the answer from around the corner.

"That sounds like Deak," Mays said with a resigned laugh.

Mays will open a Columbia office for the Fulton law firm of Holt, Krumm, Hamilton and Shryock. He also will continue teaching in the paralegal program at Stephens College and will set up a program to locate parents who have neglected their court-ordered child-support payments for the Callaway County prosecutor's office.

Private practice will not necessarily mean more free time, Mays said.

"In fact, I may have somewhat less free time. Hours in a government job are more structured."

"What you don't get (in private practice) are the phone calls in the middle of the night, or at 3 a.m. Sunday morning for DWIs. And that happens a lot," he said with a rueful laugh.

It was time for him to make the change, he said.

"I never had the intention to be public defender for the rest of my career, but I had a commitment to the job. I wanted to become known as the public defender and get some stability into the job."

Before his appointment in 1974, there had been a succession of four one-year-term public defenders.

"I felt like I should stay with it long enough. I think I

(See FORMER, page 11A)



No problem

Jason Furling, 2, doesn't have to be able to read to know this sign does not apply to his pal Pee Wee, a three-month-old puppy. Jason is the son of Lewis and Carol Furling, McBaine.